

It should be recognized that the bipartisan bill we will consider is a product of a lot of work. People say it is a House-written bill. If you look at it, first, it is overwhelmingly bipartisan; secondly, if you read through the legislation, you see that it draws upon much of the effort from this body, on both sides of the aisle, from the various committees, that have addressed emerging infections in the past—from this body as well as the House.

In the pages of that legislation, we will find much that is familiar in the proposals we have tried to pass before. Thus, Democrats and Republicans, once they read the bill, can claim satisfaction by finding that many of the provisions have been authored from Members on both sides of the aisle. That is the bill that is so close to becoming law. That is the bill we will be debating.

The consensus on the legislation to fight global HIV/AIDS is deep, but I have to say it is very narrow. I don't reveal any secrets in acknowledging that there are very strong differences around the margins of this debate. But what is truly remarkable—people will see this as they look at the legislation itself, and I find it very encouraging—is that we have come to this point of consensus that will permit us to get this bill through this last hurdle, through the Congress, and to the President of the United States.

The bill we bring to the floor does offer a 5-year plan, \$15 billion to combat HIV/AIDS on a global scale. The bipartisan support is reflected in the fact that only one House Democrat voted against this bipartisan compromise bill. Thus, it is not a Republican bill; it is not a Democrat bill; it is a bipartisan bill.

The vote in the House of Representatives was 375 to 41. The President and White House staff have reviewed the House bill, and the White House has informed me that the President would sign this bill as it currently stands. This means that Senate passage is the only remaining hurdle in the way of this 5-year, \$15 billion commitment by the United States of America in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

We must pass this bill. We must pass this bill this week. I know some of my colleagues would change the legislation and tweak it, given the opportunity. I know some would add a little here and take away some there, change the language as it is written. In a perfect world, I would like to make several changes in the bill that I think have some merit. But as someone who has invested years of my own life, in terms of developing the legislation in this fight against AIDS and in educating others about this issue, and as a physician and someone who is familiar with infectious disease and has experience in treating this virus very directly, I have reflected on ultimately what is most important.

My conclusion is that it is important for us to pass this legislation now and

get this program established without further delay—not 6 months from now, not 3 months from now, not a month from now. It is a moral issue, and history will ultimately judge how this body responds to this devastating virus. There is no change I could personally propose to this legislation that is so significant that it would cause a delay in getting this bill to the President. Therefore, when we bring up the bill, I intend to offer no amendments. I will argue against any amendments. It is my hope that other Senators will reach that conclusion as well.

The bill is a 5-year authorization and it is important for us to remember that no matter what final shape this bill takes as we pass it, this is the first major step. We still have a lot of work to do, but this is the first major step. We will have the ability in future authorizations and in the appropriations process to make other changes, to take the next step as they prove necessary. But now is the time for us to get the job done, create the capacity for that global response, and to give the President of the United States the leverage he needs to attract similar leadership from the world's other wealthy nations.

With this legislation, the United States of America will clearly be leading this fight and will become an example for the other wealthy nations to participate. Simply put, too many innocent children and men and women and young people have been infected by this terrible virus. Too many have died. We have failed to act in the past. We have had good intentions, but we have failed to act in the past. We must not fail these people again. This is our opportunity.

In closing, I appeal to my colleagues on both sides that we join together in passing this bipartisan bill. I acknowledge that it is not a perfect bill, but my conscience does not permit me to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. This is, without a doubt, one moment to put the global interests of others above our own differences and to do our work, to do good, and to reaffirm that which makes the United States of America not just a powerful Nation but indeed a great Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the majority wants to move to the energy bill as quickly as possible. We have two speakers. Senator FEINGOLD wishes to speak for 25 minutes and Senator STABENOW wishes to have 15 minutes. That would be a total of 40 minutes. If there are no intervening speeches, we can move to the energy bill at approximately 11:10.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I have also asked for some time to speak to introduce a bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest that we have a speaker for whatever time on that side and then come back to Senator ENZI and then back to his side.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I received a note that Senator MIKULSKI also wishes to speak for 10 minutes. If there are intervening Republicans who wish to speak, we certainly understand that.

I ask unanimous consent that before we move to the energy bill, Senator FEINGOLD be recognized for 25 minutes, Senator STABENOW for 15 minutes, and Senator MIKULSKI for 10 minutes. Also, Senator ENZI wishes to speak for 20 minutes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, why don't we see what speakers we have. I have a general understanding. Let's begin the speeches now and we will alternate back and forth.

Mr. REID. Then we can go to the energy bill.

Mr. FRIST. As soon as we complete the list, we will go to the energy bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that that be the case.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last week, some of our colleagues came to the floor to discuss the President's recent appearance on the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and the propriety of that appearance. I, however, come to the floor today to discuss some of what the President said on the *Lincoln*, especially with regard to the fight against terrorism.

Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the fight against global terrorism—an effort that is surely our highest national security priority. I want to spend a few minutes talking about the fight against terrorism today because it is not at all clear to me that we are as focused on this mission as we should be. I fear that our mission has become obscured and our approach unfocused. I also fear that this confused approach will undermine our goal rather than enhance our security.

I had planned to make these remarks even before yesterday's terrible terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia. Early reports indicate that those deplorable